



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

May 2005



Vital Signs Selection Meeting: The Northern Great Plains Network “Vital Signs Selection Meeting” is scheduled for September 14 in Rapid City. We will have about 20-30 outside experts at the meeting. Each park’s Technical Committee Representative has recently been sent a list of Vital Signs for review and scoring in preparation for the meeting. The representative is strongly encourage to solicit input from all park staff in scoring each Vital Sign in regards to significance to the park. The I&M Program needs each park’s scores by June 30th. At the September 14 meeting our outside experts will supplement those scores by providing input on ecological significance, significance to their agency or program, and by giving us recommendations on specific parameters to monitor and monitoring protocols.

Aerial Imagery: The I&M Program has acquired U.S.D.A. NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program) aerial photography for 2004 for all of the Network parks (except for Devils Tower which was not flown). The photo mosaics are by county so there is a significant coverage beyond park boundaries in most cases. These are true color aerial photographs taken during the summer with a resolution of 2 meters. The imagery is in MrSID compressed format so you will need ArcInfo or other software that can uncompress the files. Contact Joel Brumm for more information or for a copy of the imagery.

NPSpecies Certification: Certification continues for the park species lists. The fish list for Agate Fossil Beds NM is now certified and available online. For several taxa-parks we are waiting for the final okay by the park Technical Committee representative: please review the lists and respond to Marcia Wilson as soon as possible.

Field Work: The field season has begun. The Vegetation Monitoring Pilot Study being lead by Amy Symstad and funded by both the I&M Program and the Fire Effects Program will be at Agate Fossil Beds NM in early June and several other parks after that. Jill Rust and the water sampling crew from South Dakota State U. have already been to several parks and will be visiting other parks in the month of June.